

REMARKS

Upon entry of the claim amendments, Claims 1-3 and 5-6 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication at page 5 of the Office Action that Claim 4 contains allowable subject matter.

Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of Claim 4 into Claim 1. Claim 4 has been canceled.

No new matter has been added.

Referring to page 2 of the Office Action, the first paragraph of the specification has been amended, as requested by the Examiner, in order for it to reflect the current status of Application No. 10/414,025 (abandoned).

Also referring to page 2 of the Action, Claim 6 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

In response, Claim 6 has been amended by replacing the term "the valve" with "a valve." The withdrawal of the §112 rejection of Claim 6 is respectfully requested.

Referring to page 3 of the Office Action, Claims 1-3 and 5-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,476,161 ("US '161").

In response, Applicant has amended Claim 1 by incorporating therein the subject matter of Claim 4. Claim 4 was not included in the §102/§103 rejection. In fact, as noted, the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of Claim 4 is allowable. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the §102/§103 rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-6 is respectfully requested.

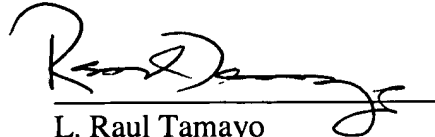
Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 10/816,895

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Raul Tamayo", written over a horizontal line.

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